THERAPEUTIC RADIOLOGY—Rationale, Technique, Results—William T. Moss, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology, Northwestern University School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, Chicago, Illinois; Director, Department of Therapeutic Radiology, Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital; Chief, Department of Therapeutic Radiology, Veterans Administration Research Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. With foreword by Lauren V. Ackerman, M.D., The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1959. 403 pages, $12.50.

This volume is described by the author as an introduction to selected clinical problems in therapeutic radiology. It is in fact considerably more than that. It is a practical book on radiation therapy which sets forth the effects of radiation on normal tissues, as well as on inflammatory, metabolic and neoplastic disorders of various types.

In the introduction, the author emphasizes that while individual tolerance and needs vary widely, radical radiation can be given effectively and safely by an experienced radiologist. "In a way, it is unfortunate that under a good teacher, few complications of overtreatment will be seen by the trainee. Not infrequently, the newly certified resident, like his surgical counterpart, is convinced that better results will follow more radical treatment. In these days of supervoltage, it is easy and tempting for the new radiologist to increase field sizes and doses. He launches his career by producing an increased number of radiation necroses without increasing the control rate. Slowly and painfully he appreciates the skill and advice of his teacher."

The author emphasizes that roentgen for roentgen, radiations with shorter wave lengths are actually biologically less effective than those of longer wave lengths. He notes the skin sparing effect of megavoltage, and stresses the hazards from high dose effects in deeper organs.

The treatment and results of radiation therapy in disorders of the various body systems are then considered in a series of 19 chapters. On page 45, the excellent results of radical radiotherapy of advanced squamous cell cancer of the skin are well illustrated. In the section on the head and neck, he emphasizes that orthovoltage (200 to 250 kv.) radiations are just as curative as radiations in the megavoltage or million volt range. They are less associated with the hazards of late severe fibrosis of the cheek, etc.

The optimum dose-time relationship for laryngeal cancer is discussed at some length. The author appears to favor the Curie Foundation current program of about 500 rads in six weeks. Your reviewer regards this as at the lower range of desirable effective dosage.

There is a good discussion of the dilemma of the modern radiologist and surgeon in the treatment of breast cancer. In general, the author's program is one advocating postoperative radiotherapy in the presence of microscopically involved axillary nodes, and radiotherapy alone in the surgically incurable cases. He notes that while bolus material makes the calculation of dosage in the treatment of breast and chest wall lesions somewhat simpler, there is little other real advantage. He chooses to treat cancer of the breast without bolus.

The section on cancer of the cervix outlines modern effective radiotherapeutic techniques. He quotes Morton to the effect that irradiation of the pelvic lymph node areas "has at least as much to offer as radical hysterectomy with lymph node dissection." In support of this view, he also quotes Meigs, "Node dissection, as it is done in the radical operation, is at best a crude dissection of pelvic nodes. Certainly there are so many chains and so many nodes in each chain that it would be impossible to remove them all. Often the nodes are so small that they cannot be seen, and often channels and nodes in an easily dissectible area are left behind." He does not list Kottmeier's rather convincing data illustrating effectiveness of radiotherapy in selected cases of squamous cell cancer in pelvic nodes.

In the chapter dealing with the response of normal bone to irradiation, the author expresses undue optimism in connection with the sparing characteristics of megavoltage. Recent publications by Friedman, Guttman and others have shown that in actual clinical practice, bone necrosis is just as apt to occur after radical radiotherapy with megavoltage devices (linear accelerators, telecobalt units, etc.), as with orthovoltage x-ray units. Since much of the effect of irradiation in bony struetures is on the soft tissues of the marrow and the blood vessels, this is not at all surprising.

The work is well illustrated and indexed. Each chapter is appended with a list of references to the curent literature.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.B.

* * *

POLIOMYELITIS—Papers and Discussions Presented at the Fourth International Poliomyelitis Conference—Compiled and Edited for the International Poliomyelitis Congress. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1958. 684 pages, $7.50.

This volume does an excellent job of bringing together all important aspects of our present knowledge of poliomyelitis. It also contains much information on experimental methods applicable not only to this, but to other virus diseases. Much of the material is of little practical importance to the practitioner of medicine in the treatment of patients with the disease; thus if a brief practical account of this phase of the problem is sought this is not the answer. This does not mean that thorough attention has not been given to the practical aspects of treatment, but rather that it must be sought for in widely separated sections of the book. The work is very well edited, and the printing and illustration excellent.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

* * *

PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS—14th Edition—F. Dennette Adams, M.D., Physician, Board of Consultation, Massachusetts General Hospital; Consultant to the Surgeon General, U. S. Army; Consultant to Boston and Bedford, Mass., Veterans Administration Hospitals. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1958. 926 pages, $12.00.

The fourteenth edition of this book reaffirms its place as the classic work in the field of Physical Diagnosis. Doctor Adams recognizes the obligation of his literary heritage in the spirit and detail of Cabot's *Principles and Methods of Physical Diagnosis* even though few recognizable features of the early text remain.

In the sixteen years which have elapsed between the thirteenth and fourteenth editions the rapid and diverse progress of diagnostic medicine has necessitated extensive rewriting and complete revision of a number of sections.

This book is aimed primarily at the medical student. He will find its scope broader than the usual Physical Diagnosis. The style is simple and clear. The material is well organized with readily found headings. The index is extensive and complete. In each subject, presentation goes from the general to the particular. Details which involve the rare or exotic are not confused with basic ideas.

Differential diagnosis is again emphasized. The listing of specific disease entities and the processes causing particular signs or symptoms are of advantage. The numerous illustrations are generally well done and correlated with the text. There is also good correlation of x-ray and EKG findings in pulmonary and cardiac conditions to help in the understanding of the role of physical diagnosis, and similarly interconnected laboratory findings in other disease processes.

In summary, this continues to be the best and most complete book on Physical Diagnosis available to students.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.